Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. The following listing provides the amended claims with the amendments marked with deleted material in crossed out and new material underlined to show the changes made.

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Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying a set of routes for a net having a set of pins in a region of a design layout, the method comprising:

   a)   partitioning the region into a plurality of sub-regions,

   b)   identifying a first set of sub-regions containing the net's pins;

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   c)   based on the first set of sub-regions, identifying a first route that traverses a second set of sub-regions, wherein the first and second set of sub-regions have a particular relationship; and

   d)   based on the particular relationship, identifying a second route from the first route, wherein the second route traverses the first set of sub-regions.

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2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising identifying the particular relationship between the first and second sets of sub-regions .

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3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein identifying the particular relationship comprises retrieving an indicia that specifies the underlined particular relationship from a storage structure.

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4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the first and second sets of sub-regions have a symmetrical relationship.

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